Message Text

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TAGS: ETRD, EIND, BTRA, BEXP, JA

SUBJECT: VISIT OF SEMICONDUCTOR INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION STUDY DIRECTOR: VAN SAUN

REFS: (A) TOKYO 12187 (B) TOKYO 12379

APPRECIATE EMBASSY REPORTING REFTELS.

1. APPRECIATE EMBASSY REPORTING REFTELS.

2. REFTEL A PARA 2 REFLECTS CONSIDERABLE CONFUSION ABOUT THE STATUS OF A PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL TARIFF COMMISSION (ITC) STUDY. UNDER 19 US CODE 1332 (SECTION 332 OF THE TARIFF ACT OF 1930), THE ITC "SHALL MAKE INVESTIGATIONS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND REPORTS" AT THE REQUEST OF THE PRESIDENT, EITHER BRANCH OF CONGRESS, OR EITHER SENATE FINANCE OR HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE. ITC CAN ALSO UNDERTAKE INVEST-

IGATIONS AT ITS OWN INITIATIVE. THERE IS NO NEED FOR A JOINT CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION.

3. ACCORDING TO ITC STAFF, A PROPOSAL FOR STUDYING WORLD-WIDE NTBS FOR INTEGRATED CIRCUITS HAS BEEN UNDER CONSIDERATION AT THE STAFF LEVEL FOR SOME TIME. MR. VAN SAUN REQUESTED THAT IT BE WIDENED CONSIDERABLY TO COVER

SEMICONDUCTORS, COMPUTERS, ETC. THE ITC IS CONSIDERING HIS PROPOSAL IN THE LIGHT OF ITS AVAILABLE RESOURCES.

- 4. WAYS AND MEANS STAFFER TELLS US THAT MR. VAN SAUN DISCUSSED A SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE RESOLUTION FIRST AND THEN MET WITH WAYS AND MEANS STAFF. WAYS AND MEANS MIGHT PASS A RESOLUTION REQUESTING AN ITC STUDY, HE SAID. MR. VAN SAUN GAVE STAFFER A COPY OF A DRAFT RESOLUTION OUTLINING SCOPE OF STUDY: WE ASSUME HE WILL PROVIDE EMBASSY A COPY OF HIS DRAFT. WAYS AND MEANS STAFF SEEMS TO HAVE IN MIND NARROWING VAN SAUN'S PROPOSAL TO FOCUS ON HISTORICAL EXPERIENCE OF COMPETITION AND GOVERNMENT INCENTIVES IN JAPANESE "TARGET INDUSTRIES" AND SEE WHAT CAN BE EXPECTED IN THE CASE OF SEMICONDUCTORS. ON THE QUESTION OF TIMING: IF WAYS AND MEANS RESOLUTION IS NOT PASSED BY AUG 15, WHEN CONGRESS RECESSES UNTIL AFTER LABOR DAY, THERE MAY BE SOME DELAY IN GETTING THE STUDY UNDERWAY.
- 5. AS FOREGOING SUGGESTS, SIA HAS SEVERAL ALTERNATIVES IN SEEKING TO HAVE THE ITC INITIATE AN INVESTIGATION OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE SEMICONDUCTOR INDUSTRY. THE COURSE SIA INTENDS TO TAKE IN ITS EFFORT TO IMPROVE ITS ACCESS TO THE JAPANESE MARKET IS NOT CLEAR TO US AT THIS TIME. BUT WE REMAIN PREPARED TO COOPERATE WITH THE SIA. CHRISTOPHER

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